

What is claimed is:

1. An image display apparatus comprising:
 - a control signal input device that inputs a control signal;
 - an operation signal output device that outputs an operation signal to an external signal source;
 - a memory device that stores display screen information; and
- 10 a control signal switching device that selectively switches use of the control signal from said control signal input device between a control signal for the display screen information stored in said memory device and the operation signal to be outputted from said operation signal output device.
- 15 2. An image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control signal switching device selectively switches the use of the control signal in a manner responsive to coordinates of a position in a display area in which the display screen information stored in said memory device is displayed, the position being indicated by the control signal.
- 20 3. An image display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image signal input device that inputs an image signal from the external signal source, and an image synthesis device that synthesizes the display screen information stored in said memory device

and a signal based on the image signal inputted by said image signal input device.

4. An image display apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said memory device has a plurality of areas which comprise at least an area storing information based on the control signal inputted by said control signal input device, an area storing information based on the image signal inputted by said image signal input device, and information based on a signal obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis device.

5. An image display apparatus comprising:

- a control signal input device that inputs a control signal;
- an image signal input device that inputs an image signal from an external signal source;
- an image signal processing device that processes the inputted image signal;
- an image display device that displays an image based on the image signal processed by said image signal processing device, on a display screen;
- an operation signal output device that outputs an operation signal to the external signal source;
- a memory device that stores display screen information which can be rewritten by the control signal from said control signal input device;
- an image synthesis device that synthesizes the display screen information stored in said memory device

and the image signal processed by said image signal processing device; and

a control signal switching device that selectively switches use of the control signal from said control signal input device between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored in said memory device and the operation signal to be outputted from said operation signal output device, according to an instruction from the control signal input device

5 concerning a display area in which the display screen information stored in said memory device is displayed and a display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing device is displayed, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said

10 image synthesis device.

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6. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image signal processing device includes a resolution conversion device that converts resolution of the inputted image signal.

20 7. An image display apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a second memory device that stores the image signal of which resolution has been converted by said resolution conversion device, and wherein said image synthesis device synthesizes

25 the display screen information stored in said memory device and the image signal stored in said second memory device.

8. An image display apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control signal switching device converts display coordinates of a display area after resolution conversion on the display screen to 5 coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution conversion, before sending the operation signal to said operation signal output device.

9. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a third memory device that stores 10 image information obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis device.

10. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a transfer device that transfers 15 image information obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis device to an external device.

11. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control signal switching device changes 20 a boundary between the display area in which the display screen information stored in said memory device is displayed and the display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing device is displayed on an image synthesized by said image synthesis device, based on the control signal from said control signal input device.

25 12. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control signal input device comprises an input device that operates in a manner interlocked

with a cursor displayed on the display screen.

13. An image display apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control signal input device comprises a digitizer pen that virtually plots an image on the 5 display screen of said image display device.

14. An information processing apparatus using the image display apparatus according to claim 1.

15. An information processing apparatus using the image display apparatus according to any one of claims 10 5 to 13.

16. An image display method comprising:
a control signal-inputting step of inputting a control signal;
an operation signal-outputting step of outputting 15 an operation signal to an external signal source;
a memory step for storing display screen information; and
a control signal-switching step of selectively switching use of the control signal inputted at said 20 control signal-inputting step between a control signal for the display screen information stored at said memory step and the operation signal to be outputted at said operation signal-outputting step.

17. An image display method comprising:
25 a control signal-inputting step of inputting a control signal;
an image signal-inputting step of inputting an

image signal from an external signal source;

an image signal-processing step of processing the inputted image signal;

an image display step of displaying an image based 5 on the image signal processed at said image signal-processing step, on a display screen;

an operation signal-outputting step of outputting an operation signal to the external signal source;

a memory step of storing display screen 10 information which can be rewritten by the control signal inputted at said control signal-inputting step;

an image-synthesizing step of synthesizing the display screen information stored at said memory step and the image signal processed at said image signal-processing step; and 15

a control signal-switching step of selectively switching use of the control signal inputted at said control signal-inputting step between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored at said 20 memory step and the operation signal to be outputted at said operation signal-outputting step, according to an instruction at said control signal-inputting step concerning a display area in which the display screen information stored at said memory step is displayed and 25 a display area in which the image signal processed at said image signal-processing step, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis

step.

18. An image display method according to claim 17, wherein said image signal-processing step includes a resolution-converting step of converting resolution of 5 the inputted image signal.

19. An image display method according to claim 18, further comprising a second memory step of storing the image signal of which the resolution has been converted at said resolution-converting step, and

10 wherein the display screen information stored at said memory step and the image signal stored at said second memory step are synthesized at said image-synthesizing step.

20. An image display method according to claim 18, 15 wherein said control signal-switching step includes converting display coordinates of a display area after resolution conversion on the display screen to coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution conversion, before outputting the operation signal at 20 said operation signal-outputting step.

21. An image display method according to claim 17, further comprising a third memory step of storing image information obtained by synthesis at said image-synthesizing step.

25 22. An image display method according to claim 17, further comprising a transfer step of transferring image information obtained by synthesis at said image-

synthesizing step to an external device.

23. An image display method according to claim 17, wherein said control signal-switching step includes changing a boundary between the display area in which 5 the display screen information stored at said memory step is displayed and the display area in which the image signal processed at said image-processing step is displayed, on an image synthesized at said image-synthesizing step, based on the control signal inputted 10 at said control signal-inputting step.

24. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing an image display method, the program comprising:
a control signal input module for inputting a 15 control signal from a control signal input device;
an operation signal output module for outputting an operation signal to an external signal source;
a memory module for storing display screen information; and
20 a control signal switching module for selectively switching use of the control signal inputted by said control signal input module between a control signal for the display screen information stored by said memory module and the operation signal to be outputted 25 by said operation signal output module.

25. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing an image display method,

the program comprising:

a control signal input module for inputting a control signal from a control signal input device;

5 an image signal input module for inputting an image signal from an external signal source;

an image signal processing module for processing the inputted image signal;

10 an image display module for displaying an image based on the image signal processed by said image signal processing module, on a display screen;

an operation signal output module for outputting an operation signal to the external signal source;

15 a memory module for storing display screen information which can be rewritten by the control signal inputted by said control signal input module;

an image synthesis module for synthesizing the display screen information stored by said memory module and the image signal processed by said image signal processing module; and

20 a control signal switching module for selectively switching use of the control signal inputted by said control signal input module between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored by said memory module and the operation signal to be outputted 25 by said operation signal output module, according to an instruction by the control signal input module concerning a display area in which the display screen

information stored by said memory module is displayed and a display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing module is displayed, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said 5 image synthesis module.

26. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said image signal processing module includes a resolution conversion module for converting resolution of the inputted image signal.

10 27. A storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the program further comprises a second memory module for storing the image signal of which the resolution has been converted by said resolution conversion module, and

15 wherein said image synthesis module synthesizes the display screen information stored by said memory module and the image signal stored by said second memory module.

28. A storage medium according to claim 26, 20 wherein said control signal switching module converts display coordinates of a display area after resolution conversion on the display screen to coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution conversion, before sending the operation signal to said operation 25 signal output module.

29. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said image display module further comprises a

third memory module for storing image information obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis module.

30. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further comprises a transfer module 5 for transferring image information obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis module to an external device.

31. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said control signal input module changes a 10 boundary between the display area in which the display screen information stored by said memory module is displayed and the display area in which the image signal processed by said image processing module is displayed on an image synthesized by said image 15 synthesis module based on the control signal inputted by said control signal input module.